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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/189,043	11/09/1998	SCOTT M. ROCKLAGE	238/117	5059

21834 7590 12/23/2002

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EXAMINER

HARTLEY, MICHAEL G

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1616

20

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/189,043	ROCKLAGE ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Michael G. Hartley	1616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 November 2002.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4,8,21-24 and 28-30 is/are pending in the application.
  - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22 and 23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4,8,21,24 and 28-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/06/2002 has been entered.

***Response to Arguments***

Any previous rejections which have not been reiterated herein have been withdrawn.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 8 and 21 and 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either one of Belliveau (SMRM 8, 8/1988) or Cacheris (SMRM 8, 12/1988) in view of Villringer, for the reasons set forth in the office action mailed 05/06/2002.

Applicant's arguments filed 11/06/2002 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant asserts that Belliveau discloses a method to determine blood flow using a single image, as opposed to the claimed method which requires the use of a sequence or series of temporally spaced images.

This is not found persuasive because firstly, the claimed invention is not limited to a method which requires the use of a sequence of series of temporally spaced images. The claims only state that the magnetic resonance imaging is "capable of" generating images from signals from a series of temporally and it has been held that a recitation that an element is "capable of" performing a function is not a positive limitation, but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in

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any patentable sense. See *In re Hutchison*, 69 USPQ 138. Further, the claims recite that a "single shot imaging procedure" may be performed. Secondly, Belliveau using temporal images using "real time" imaging of multiple post injection "images" which is a series of images, see Materials and Methods and Figure 1, column 2. Further, Belliveau, as well as, Cacheris disclose the use of "susceptibility imaging" which is the superposition of independent images, or a series of signals. The real-time imaging used in the method of Belliveau is a high-speed imaging technique which requires the use of a series of images, as this is a requirement for "real time" (over a temporal time period) imaging. This method is used to ascertain changes between MRI signal intensity in gray and white matter of the brain, which is within the scope of "variations" as claimed.

Applicant also asserts that Villringer teaches a method wherein a single image is used to detect the presence or absence of the contrast agent outside the blood vessels.

This is not found persuasive because Villringer teaches a method wherein serial temporal images are performed to provide the advantage detection of rapid changes in signal intensity after the administration of contrast agent, page 166. Villringer teaches that it is known in the art that perfusion rates are directly related to blood flow and provide the advantage of yielding physiological data on blood flow for clinical use, which employ a series of temporally spaced images to detect the changes of intensity after the use of contrast agent. Since Villringer teaches that perfusion rates are directly related to blood flow in method of MRI using a series of temporally spaced images and the same type of contrast agents as used in the methods of Belliveau and/or Cacheris, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to employ the methods of blood flow rates disclosed by Belliveau or Cacheris to determine perfusion rates to take advantage of the relationship taught by Villringer of obtaining important clinical data thereby.

#### ***Double Patenting***

A rejection based on double patenting of the "same invention" type finds its support in the language of 35 U.S.C. 101 which states that "whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process ... may obtain a patent therefor ..." (Emphasis added). Thus, the term "same invention," in this context, means an invention drawn to identical subject matter. See *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1894);

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*In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 USPQ 330 (CCPA 1957); and *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970).

A statutory type (35 U.S.C. 101) double patenting rejection can be overcome by canceling or amending the conflicting claims so they are no longer coextensive in scope. The filing of a terminal disclaimer cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 101.

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of prior U.S. Patent No. 5,833,947, for the reasons set forth in the office action mailed 12/03/2001.

Applicant has not traversed this rejection with any substantive arguments. The terminal disclaimer that was filed 11/6/2002 cannot overcome a double patenting rejection based upon statutory double patenting under 35 U.S.C. 101. It is suggested that claim 24 is canceled to obviate this rejection.

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-4, 8, 21 and 28-30 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,190,744, for the reasons set forth in the office action mailed 12/03/2001.

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The terminal disclaimer filed 11/06/2002 is not proper and has not been accepted because the patent number which forms the basis of the double patenting rejection is incorrect. The terminal disclaimer lists Pat. No. 5,833,947 to which a statutory double patenting rejection has been made (which a terminal disclaimer cannot be used to overcome), while the obviousness type double patenting rejection was made over Pat. No. 5,190,744.

***Specification***

The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

***Conclusion***

No claims are allowed at this time.

This is a RCE of applicant's earlier Application No. 09/189,043. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action in this case. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no, however, event will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael G. Hartley whose telephone number is (703) 308-4411. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 7:30-5, off alternative Mondays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jose G. Dees can be reached on (703) 308-4628. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this

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application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4556 for regular communications and (703) 308-4556 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.



Michael G. Hartley  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1616

MH

December 17, 2002